

Under the terms of the agreement authorized unanimously today by the state Economic Investment Committee, a 10-year grant will be established. Over the life of the grant, the N.C. Department of Commerce estimates the project will:

- Generate a cumulative gross state product value of about \$372 million.
- Produce a positive cumulative net state revenue impact of \$7.3 million.
- Contribute nearly \$1.4 million to the state's Industrial Development Fund for infrastructure improvements in rural North Carolina. This contribution is required of grant recipients that locate in a Tier 5 County.

For each year the company meets required performance targets, the state will provide a grant equal to 65 percent of the personal state withholding taxes derived from the creation of new jobs up to the amount under the annual company cap in the terms of the agreement. If the company creates the jobs called for under the agreement and sustains them for 10 years, the agreement could yield maximum benefits to the company of \$4.2 million over the life of the grant.

The Job Development Investment Grant initiative, proposed by Easley and the state Economic Development Board in 2002, awards up to 15 grants annually to strategically important new and expanding businesses and industrial projects. These grants are only awarded to projects whose benefits exceed their costs to the state and which would not locate in North Carolina without the grant. Cumulative annual grant amounts are capped at \$10 million.

The first Job Development Investment Grant was awarded in May 2003 and the program has been responsible for bringing 4,771 new direct jobs and more than \$292 million in investment in North Carolina. To date, the potential JDIG benefits to the eleven companies total about \$50.2 million. Twenty-five percent of the eligible grant amount for each announcement made in the more prosperous counties will be used to fund the state's Industrial Development Fund, a rural infrastructure fund. This fund, which will receive up to \$16.4 million as a result of this program, works toward the fulfillment of Easley's commitment to build One North Carolina.

Many partners played a key role in this project including Mecklenburg County, the City of Charlotte and the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce.

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